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SENSITIVE SIPDIS

STATE FOR ISN/MDSP - RICHARD H. BUENNEKE; GENEVA FOR CD DEL

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: <u>CDG ESA EUN KACT KTIA MCAP PARM PREL TSPA SP</u> SUBJECT: SPAIN APPRECIATES INPUT ON EU OUTER SPACE ACTIVITIES CODE OF CONDUCT

REF: STATE 126206

Post delivered reftel demarche on the EU draft Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities to the MFA's Deputy Director General for Nonproliferation and Disarmament Gonzalo de Salazar Serantes. De Salazar appreciated the U.S. input and particularly its timeliness. He said that support from both the U.S. and Russia is important and added that feedback from Russia has been much less constructive. Russia has crossed out entire sections of the draft and has been pushing for a legally-binding international convention rather than a voluntary code of conduct. The EU plans to begin revising the document in January, taking into consideration the input received thus far, and will invite comments on the new draft in March or April. CHACON